

**INFORMATION REPORT  
OF THE  
CORRECTION MATTERS  
EVALUATION COMMITTEE**



Indiana Legislative Services Agency  
200 W. Washington St., Suite 301  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789

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# Corrections Matters Evaluation Committee

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## INFORMATION REPORT

### **Corrections Matters Evaluation Committee**

#### **I. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DIRECTIVE**

The Legislative Council directed the Committee to do the following:

In accordance with IC 2-5-21-10 the Corrections Matters Evaluation Committee is to study issues related to corrections or judicial matters. Legislative Council Resolution 99-8 specifies an evaluation of the Department of Correction with specific analysis of (1) community corrections programs and the community transition program; and (2) compensation and safety issues for correctional officers.

#### **II. SUMMARY OF WORK PROGRAM**

The Committee met six times during the 2000 interim on July 27, August 11, September 29, October 12, October 19, and October 20. During the 2001 interim, the committee met four times on October 1, October 15, October 23 and October 30.

The Committee is not required to file a final report.

#### **III. COMMITTEE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Committee recommendations that were made during the 2000 interim included approval of the following:

**PD 3509** provides whistle-blower protection for Department of Correction employees. It includes employees of the Department of Correction who report violations of department directives, policies, or other internal guidelines within the scope of the current whistle-blower statute.

**PD 3516** requires the Department of Correction to prohibit employees from displaying racist markings on their bodies or clothing. It also requires the Department to reassign employees who display racist markings. Racist symbols and insignias would be prohibited from being displayed in correctional facilities, juvenile facilities or county jails.

**PD 3508** requires state and locally operated community corrections programs to report to the executive director of the Legislative Services Agency the race and ethnic background of offenders in the programs. The Committee amended the proposal to include whether offenders are carriers of tuberculosis in a communicable stage or another dangerous communicable disease.

**PD 3507** adds the reintegration of offenders into the community as a purpose for the establishment and operation of community corrections programs. The bill also amends the definition of community corrections to include programs that reintegrate offenders into the community.

**PD 3521** affects the powers of Board of Correction and void the bylaws adopted by the Board of Correction before October 1, 1980. The bill was amended by moving a portion of the noncode

section of the bill into IC 11-8-2-3.

**PD 3511** prohibits the Department of Correction, community correction agencies and county jails from profiting financially from providing telephone service to confined offenders.

**PD 3520** requires that the medical examination given to an individual committed to the Department of Correction after June 30, 2001, include tests for hepatitis C and the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). It requires a confirmatory test if a screening test indicates the presence of HIV. It allows the Department of Correction to require individuals committed to the Department before July 1, 2001 to submit to hepatitis C and HIV tests. It requires the Department of Correction to report positive HIV test results to the State Department of Health. It provides that results of the hepatitis C and HIV tests are confidential unless otherwise provided by law. It requires the Department of Correction to file an annual report regarding certain statistical information regarding hepatitis C and HIV tests with the executive director of the Legislative Services Agency. It provides that consent of the individual tested is not required.

The Committee made no recommendations during the 2001 interim.

The evaluation reports and meeting minutes can be accessed from the General Assembly Homepage at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/> for both interims.